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Thank You

Patricia Berggren

What a pleasant surprise to receive the NDALL Adult Ed Educator of the Year award! I found out how many people can keep a secret for a long, long time. I know this is going to sound like the Academy Award thank you speeches, but I have to thank my secretive colleagues.. Thank you Deb Moller, Eric Rogness, Cindy Rerick, and Connie Ripplinger for you part in the nomination. Chuck Sanderson, you did a good job of not telling me. Thank you to the people who chose me. I am honored. After meeting other GED instructors here, I know that the description of me for the award could have been applied to any one of them. The students in North Dakota are fortunate to have extremely dedicated and caring adult education instructors. Thank you for the confidence you have in me, the kind words, and the beautiful painting. You do know, however, now comes the hard part. Now I have to live up to that description!

Meet your NDALL Board

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Thank You

A **huge** thank you to everyone who helped make the NDALL Fall Conference a success. It takes a lot of volunteer time, effort, and ideas to make sure NDALL offers a tremendous conference!

Looping

Looping: Also called continuous learning, multiyear placement, or family-style learning, looping -- in which the same teacher remains with a group of students for two or more years -- is a concept as old as the one-room schoolhouse. And yet, its proponents say the practice has a solid place in the 21st-century classroom because looping has been known to strengthen student-teacher bonds, improve test scores, expand time for instruction, increase parent participation, and reduce behavioral problems and placements in special education programs.

To read the article please go to:

<http://www.edutopia.org/looping-multiage-classroom-grouping-palisades>

Another article on looping says; Psychologists and educators agree that learning is enhanced by long-term connections between teachers and pupils, yet students rarely have the same instructor for more than one school year. To read more: <http://www.edutopia.org/looping-multiage-classroom-grouping-benefits>

**Senate Confirms
Brenda Dann-Messier
As the Department's Assistant
Secretary
for Vocational and Adult Education**



The U.S. Senate has confirmed Brenda Dann-Messier as the Department's new assistant secretary for vocational and adult education, and she plans to be in her OVAE office as early as Oct. 13. Dann-Messier has served as president of the Providence, R. I. program Dorcas Place for the past 10 years. She also served on the R. I. Board of Governors for Higher Education and the board of the R. I. Higher Education Assistance Authority. Dann-Messier was the secretary of education's New England regional representative during the Clinton administration. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Johnson & Wales University, Providence campus, and a master's degree in instructional technology from Rhode Island College.

Dorcas Place Adult and Family Learning Center, which she led, is in its 28th year of providing comprehensive adult education programs to low-income Rhode Islanders. The center assists low-income adults in realizing their full potential through literacy training, employment, advocacy and community involvement. Nearly 1,000 students each year are enrolled in day and evening adult basic education, English language learning and GED classes; college transition programs at two campuses of the Community College of Rhode Island; family literacy and after-school programs to enhance the learning gains of children in local elementary schools; and workforce literacy training. The National Coalition for Literacy (NCL) presented a NCL Literacy Leadership Award to Dorcas Place in September 2009 for its contributions to improving literacy and raising literacy awareness. Under Dann-Messier's leadership, Dorcas Place was recognized for promising practices by the New England Literacy

Resource Center, the National College Transition Network, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the Commission on Adult Basic Education and ProLiteracy America, and *U.S. News and World Report*. The R. I. Department of Education in February 2009 rated the center as one of the highest performing adult education programs in the state.

Punctuation is Powerful!

An English professor wrote these words: "A woman without her man is nothing" on the chalkboard and asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All of the males in the class wrote:
"A woman, without her man, is nothing."

All of the females in the class wrote:
"A woman: without her, man is nothing."

**Text and Real Time Messaging Shorthand
Another Language**

Another language people are learning are the text and internet messaging that people use while on cell phones or communicating throughout the Internet. Instant Messaging (IM) may have a different language than gaming or other interest groups.

Parents need to know what their children are saying while texting or using the Internet.

POS – Parent over shoulder

PRW – Parents are watching

The following 2 sites have an excellent list of the acronyms being used.

Webopedia:

http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/textmessagabbreviations.asp

Netlingo:

<http://www.netlingo.com/top50/acronyms-for-parents.php>

Freezer Fun

Robert Krampf's Science Education
<http://thehappyscientist.com>

This week's experiment is a simple one. It is one of those things that you have experienced over and over, but might not have thought much about. To try it, you will need:

- a freezer
- some ice cream (Optional for some people. Required for me.)

First, open the freezer, remove the ice cream, and close the door. Now for the difficult part. Immediately, open the door and put the ice cream back.

You will probably notice that it is much harder to open the freezer door the second time. Why? It is not just because you want to keep the ice cream. It is definitely more difficult to pull the door open.

The air inside the freezer is cold, which makes it more dense than room temperature air. When you open the freezer that cold, dense air flows out, and is replaced by lighter, warmer air. When you close the freezer door, the air inside gets colder. As its temperature falls, it contracts, which creates a lower air pressure inside the freezer. When you try to open the door the second time, the higher air pressure outside is not balanced by the pressure inside. Since there is more pressure pushing in, it is much harder to open the door.

If the experiment does not work well for you, try removing some of the frozen foods from your freezer. The more air space that you have, the better the experiment will work. If it still does not work well, examine the seal on the freezer door. If the seal is broken or damaged, it would let air in to equalize the pressure. That also means that it is letting the cold air flow out of your freezer, which is not good.

Now, the second time that you open the freezer door, it is not really necessary to put the ice cream back. It is perfectly OK to keep it out long enough to scoop some into a bowl. That will let you test to see whether the pressure has equalized by the time you finish eating, and go back for seconds.

Technology Tools

Laurel Kaae

Pulse Smart Pen <http://www.livescribe.com>



The Smart Pen by Livescribe is a tremendous tool to get to know. Susan Barton says, "The pen is the first practical, affordable -- and really cool -- solution to taking notes -- whether you're in a classroom, a lecture hall, a business meeting, an interview, or even an IEP eligibility session".

Many instructors are using this pen for their notes and then uploading the notes to the computer and also sharing the notes online. Students are sharing their notes with others online also. Teachers are making worksheets and even tests for students to complete. ELL students are using this to hear the word pronounced and see it in writing.

This creates the 3 R's of Learning:

RECEIVE

How many students struggle to keep up with the teacher's lesson?

REVIEW

How many times does the student need to review the lesson to understand the material?

RETAIN

How many students can't retain the information long enough to use it?

For more information on how teachers are using the pen:

<http://www.livescribe.com/education/index.html>

These pens can be purchased at Target, Best Buy, Amazon along with the special notebooks.

Another Great Tool:



Bamboo Pen and Touch

This fun technology tool can be used for editing documents, creating new material on an electronic whiteboard, drawing

diagrams, and it enhances the way teacher/student interacts on documents and whiteboards. Teachers use the pen to draw diagrams and students use the pen to add to the electronic notes sent out by teachers.

The opportunities to engage students in learning with this pen are endless. Some examples:

Have a math worksheet completed in Word and have the students answer on the computer using the Bamboo Pen and Touch.

$$\begin{array}{r} 35 \\ +10 \\ \hline 45 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 98 \\ -27 \\ \hline 71 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} 100\% \\ \text{Great!!} \end{array}$$

This could also be used to help the students practice essay writing:

If I had to choose a color I would choose yellow. Yellow is a pleasing color. People who study in yellow learn better.

The instructor would be able to come in and help edit the material using the Bamboo Pen. Our students are using this pen to answer the study guides we designed in Word for the GED. We are also going to make math worksheets and essay pages for students to use with the Bamboo Pen. We are creating many different ways to integrate the pen and instructional materials. The students really enjoying working on material and think it is great!

Art students will really enjoy this pen as they can perform many different artistic functions using the pen.

You can purchase the Bamboo Pen and Touch at Staples.

<http://www.wacom.com/bamboo/index.php?gclid=CLWQwMbAuJ0CFSFRagodiFw2ig>

All About Explorers

This website: <http://www.allaboutexplorers.com/>

Gives a list of explorers to read about, has a place to hunt for answers to questions about the explorers, and also has a teacher page which includes worksheets for the teacher to use with the students. These worksheets may be opened in Word or PDF.

News Online

This website has thumbnails of the information that you can read online. If you want to see the entire article you click on the thumbnail and the article will come up to full size for you to enjoy!

<http://fastflip.googlelabs.com/>

Center for Literacy Studies Learning Skills Curriculum

The Learning Skills Curriculum is an approach to orientation and the learning process. It was originally developed as an orientation/introductory class for adult learners just beginning their ABE experience. The curriculum covers such topics as:

- Learning styles
- Personality
- Teamwork
- Problem Solving
- Goal Setting
- Test Taking Strategies

http://www.cls.utk.edu/lc_curriculum.html

If you have any articles for the newsletter please send them to ndall2007@gmail.com!!

